

Application No.: 09/671,038
Response dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 8, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and re-examination are hereby requested.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to point out that the method includes granting default access to the bus to a predetermined one of the candidates in the absence of any requests for the bus while, in the absence of such default granting, granting access to the bus to one of the candidates in accordance with predetermined priority criteria, ...

It is first noted that the amendment to claim 1 removes Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

It is next noted that the amendment to claim 1 more clearly distinguishes over the Lentz et al, cited by the Examiner. More particularly, the claim points out that in the absence of any bus request, one of the candidates is granted access to the bus. Thus, even assuming arguendo that Lentz et al, assigns a highest priority when no requests from other candidates are made as alleged by the Examiner, applicant takes the process one step further by actually granting the predetermined one of the candidates access to the bus. The Examiner has not pointed out where Lentz et al., describes this granting step.

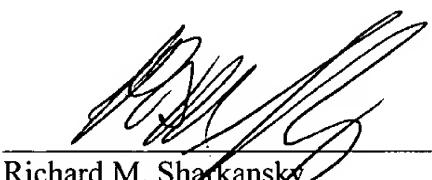
Applicant further requests that the Examiner point out the column and line where his allegation that a highest priory is assigned in the absence of a request.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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